

An invitation to a survey on HIT adoption and meaningful use

The Washington State Health Care Authority, the Washington and Idaho Regional Extension Center (WIREC), and Washington State Medicaid would greatly appreciate your assistance with the distribution of the attached survey to the members of your organization. The intent of this survey is to learn about the adoption and use of electronic health records in clinical practices and hospitals across the state, and their readiness for meeting meaningful use criteria for participation in the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs.

What is the purpose of this survey?

This survey will provide important information to guide the planning, development and implementation of the programs currently sponsored the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act/Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (ARRA/HITECH) grants such as the:

- Statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE)
- Technical assistance and guidance program offered by Qualis Health through the WIREC
- EHR Incentive Program sponsored by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Washington State Medicaid.

What is the survey timeline?

The survey timeline is from September 17 until October 8. Your help in distributing this survey and sending reminder notices throughout the survey timeline will help ensure maximum participation. We will send you reminder notices you can use for distribution to your members during this time.

How can you help?

You can help us distribute this survey to your membership! A list service or other electronic means to communicate with your membership would be the most efficient way to distribute this survey to your members.

Who is the target audience for this survey?

The target audience is health care professionals (or other appropriate individuals) from individual practices, small and large group practices, and hospitals ***that are knowledgeable about the use of electronic health records in their clinical settings and familiar with the meaningful use criteria.*** These individuals may be the physician lead at the clinic or organization for health information technology initiatives, the chief technology officer in a large health care clinic system or hospital, or the administrative lead in a small to medium size clinical practice. Your help in distributing this survey to these individuals will ensure we reach our target audience and maximize participation.

What if the target audience isn't all that familiar with the "meaningful use" criteria?

While many health care providers and organizations are using or, if not, are at least familiar with electronic health records, some may not be all that familiar with the meaningful use criteria that was published by CMS in summer of 2010. HCA and several organizations involved with the ARRA/HITECH programs collaborated to develop two communications, [EHR Meaningful Use Overview](#) and [EHR Meaningful Use Q&A](#), that you may want to send along with the survey invitation. These communications were developed to provide a quick overview of "meaningful use" and includes a list of resources where your members can get more information.

What do survey participants need to know about taking the survey?

- ***The survey takes about 12-15 minutes to complete.*** If appropriate individuals are targeted (those that have a good understanding about the basic use and capabilities of their organization's electronic health record system) the survey may take even less time to complete.
- ***Participants may receive this survey link from more than one organization.*** Our professional organization partnership approach to distribution of this survey may result in some participants receiving the invitation to complete this survey more than once. For example, if a survey participant is a family practice clinic that belongs to the Rural Health Clinic Association of Washington, and also receive payments from Washington State Medicaid, they may receive the invitation to participate in this survey from both organizations. *If this situation occurs, participants are encouraged to respond to the survey only once.*
- ***Demographic information provided by the survey participants will be kept confidential and not distributed or shared in communicated survey results.*** This demographic information will be used only for survey analysis follow-up (if we have any questions about survey responses) or if the participant requests specific follow-up from us in comments provided in the survey.

What's in it for you?

As a partner organization in this effort, you will receive the aggregated survey results for review and comment **before** they are distributed, at the end of October, to the health care community, stakeholders, and interested parties. Also, we have included a question in the survey asking participants to let us know from which organization they received their invitation. If your members indicate that they received the survey from your organization, then we will be able to do a subset comparison of your membership's responses with the total survey participant population and provide you with that data to share with your organization.

What do I need to do to get started?

1. Create a brief introductory message from your organization to invite your membership to participate in this survey. Please feel free to use any and all of the information provided in this email to develop your message.
2. Include the link to the survey [HIT Adoption and Meaningful Use Readiness Survey](#)
3. Attach the letter from the Health Care Authority, WIREC, and Washington State Medicaid. This letter is an invitation to your membership to participate in this survey.
4. Attach the “meaningful use” criteria information sheets, if appropriate, for your organization’s membership.

Questions?

If you have any questions, or need assistance with the survey link or distribution, please contact Kelly.llewellyn@hca.wa.gov, 360-923-2772, or steve.lewis@hca.wa.gov , 360-923-2824.